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In reply please refer to :

MIM/V27/181/1

Prière de rappeler la référence :

6 April 1993

Dear Professor Lederberg

Within WHO/UNDP Programme for Vaccine Development, I have the responsibility of the secretariat of the Steering Committee (SC) on Diarrhoeal Disease Vaccines (DDV). This SC is interested in developing vaccines against cholera, *Shigella*, ETEC *E.coli*, rotavirus, and typhoid fever which is not *stricto sensu* a diarrhoeal disease.

Dr Jerry Sadoff, from Dr J. Sadoff, Director, Division of Communicable Diseases and Immunology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, is the Chairman of the SC on DDV. He suggested that I seek your advice in a field that you know very well and, because of your recognized scientific and human reputation.

The SC on DDV recommended the set-up of a centre in the former USSR for clinical trial of candidate vaccines. Dr Sadoff and myself undertook a site visit to Moscow and Novosibirsk in December 1992. Our conclusion was that both sites had the potential to become excellent centres with enthusiastic and motivated people and adequate facilities.

As our currently available budget does not allow financial support for two centres, it has been decided to start the studies in Moscow, with the already available budget and try to obtain funds from another financial source such as the US defense conversion funds. The centre in Novosibirsk worked, in the past, for the army and its team is very interested in collaborating with WHO and the West. Professor L.S. Sandakhchiev, Director General, Dr S. Netesov, Scientific Director and their team were open to answer questions that were asked during our visit and allowed us to film all parts of the centre. We think that with the current situation in the Russian Federation, it is timely for us to help this kind of centre which offers adequate facilities not only for testing new candidate vaccines but also for producing vaccines or reagents for laboratory use.

Professor J. Lederberg, The Rockefeller University, New York  
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We would appreciate very much your advice, and help, in exploring areas to financially support a collaboration with this centre and WHO in the field of DDV. This would allow us to study more quickly available candidate vaccines against these diseases, which cause more than three million deaths of children per year in the world.

Please find attached a copy of our travel report and a copy of a letter from Dr D.A. Henderson to Dr J.A. Woodall regarding US funds reconversion.

In the hope of obtaining complementary funds, we looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Dr B. Ivanoff  
Microbiology and Immunology  
Support Service

ENCLS: as stated